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grow the yucca in those parts of this country or in Europe where seed is not produced. The cocoons will be best sent in early spring and should be buried three or four inches beneath the soil at the foot of the plant.

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### REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

PREHISTORIC RACES OF THE UNITED STATES.\*—Had the so-called Indian never existed in North America, it would, we think, have been a more satisfactory undertaking to endeavor to solve, from existing data, the mystery of that forgotten people of this continent, now known as "Mound-builders." Careful as one may be, it is impossible to avoid uniting the traces of the two people, especially when describing stone implements, while professedly treating of but one of these races. Even among the many relics of the redman found in the Atlantic states, there are frequently gathered single specimens, that seem applicable to the mound-builder rather than to the Indian; so, judging from relics of this character only, there seems to be a closer tie between the two peoples than the learned author of the volume before us is disposed to admit. Such is the impression made by a careful perusal of that portion of the work which describes the stone implements found in and near the earthworks referable to the mound-builders; and it is the copper weapons and pottery that distinguish this people, studied only by the smaller relics that are found; for no stone implement occurs in the mounds, or is otherwise assignable to the mound-builders, that is not also characteristic of Indian "finds." When, on the other hand, we familiarize ourselves with the wonderful mounds, for temple sites, for sacrifice and sepulture, and with the long lines of an enclosure for defence and other purposes, then indeed, we see abundant reason for drawing the lines between the people who erected them and the ruder redmen; and admitting that "a broad chasm is to be spanned before we can link the mound-builders to the North American Indians."

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\* Prehistoric Races of the United States of America. By the late J. W. Foster LL.D. Chicago, S. C. Griggs and Co. 8vo, cloth. pp. 415. Illustrated.

In the opening chapters of the book, Dr. Foster gives an admirable résumé of the evidences, in Europe and in the United States, of the antiquity of man; and follows these chapters with others on the geographical distribution of the works of the mound-builders; shell-banks (which are as referable to Indians as to mound-builders); the construction of the mounds; the arts and manufactures of their builders, and also, on their copper-mining operations at Lake Superior.

Succeeding these, is an exceedingly interesting chapter on the crania of the mound-builders, and then, after discussing manners and customs as the basis of ethnic relations, the author asks in chapter x, "Who were the mound-builders?"

We have not the space to enter into a detailed analysis of the several chapters, briefly noticed above, although embracing so many subjects that are of steadily increasing interest to American archæologists. As the main object of the work, however, is to solve the deep mystery of the origin and fate of the mound-builders, it is well that Dr. Foster's own reply to these questions should be given. He writes, with reference to the first of these, "Instead of seeking to establish ethnic relations between the mound-builders and any of the races of the Old World, founded on the apparent similarity of manners and customs, I would look rather for their origin to that race who, in times far remote, flourished in Brazil, some of whose crania are found in the bone-caves of Minas Geræas, in connection with mammalian bones belonging to genera and species now extinct."

With reference to their fate, while occupants of the territory where their earthworks now are found, he remarks: "The distinctive character of the mound-builders' structures, and also the traditions which have been preserved, would indicate that this people were expelled from the Mississippi valley by a fierce and barbarous race, and that they found refuge in the more genial climate of Central America, where they developed those germs of civilization, originally planted in their northern homes, into a perfection which has elicited the admiration of every modern explorer."

We have here two very clearly expressed ideas as to the origin of the mound-builders in North America, and of their departure therefrom. Dr. Foster does not believe, as we have seen, in an *extra-American* origin of this people; but seeks it rather in the

discovery, by Dr. Lund, in Brazil, "of human bones of both sexes entirely preserved and partially petrified; in fact, truly fossil bones, mixed with those of gigantic and extinct animals,\*" "and points out the similarity of the crania from Brazil with authentic mound-builders' skulls, that similarity being "a remarkable deficiency of the frontal eminences, amounting to an almost entire absence of the forehead," and further adds, "a type which we find delineated on the monuments of Mexico and Central America and which is seen in the crania recovered from the shores of Lake Michigan and the banks of the Wabash and Mississippi."

These mound-builders' skulls, it appears, from Dr. Foster's researches, "differ on the one hand from the Indian type, which is brachycephalic, and from the Teutonic, on the other, which is dolicocephalic. They are intermediate, or orthocephalic;" and, after giving some craniological details, adds, "I think we are justified in drawing the conclusion that the mound-builders were not the ancestors of North American Indians."

The conclusion drawn being that orthocephalic mound-builders could not or did not degenerate into redmen, who according to Retzius are brachycephalic, "on that side of our continent which looks \*towards Asia and the isles of the Pacific" and dolicocephalic along the Atlantic seaboard, being nearly related to the Guanches of the Canary Islands, and the Caribs—but that "the primeval people of Brazil, the Huanchas of Peru, the platform builders of Mexico and the mound-builders of the Mississippi Valley" were closely allied people. Of these, however, Dr. Foster distinctly states that the latter are orthocephalic; while Retzius describes the others as decidedly dolicocephalic. If therefore both authors are correct, we cannot trace the connection between the mound-builders, as described by Dr. Foster, and the races described by Retzius, to whom our author refers so frequently, as to the characteristics of their crania. And, on the other hand, if the orthocephali are derived from dolicocephalic autochthones of Brazil, why may not their descendants have become, by sexual selection, brachycephalic redmen, or indeed reverted to the ancestral dolicocephalic form? The fossil men of Minas Geræs may be the ancestors of the mound-builders, but do the craniological details brought forward by Dr. Foster, of themselves prove it?

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\*Journ. Anthropol. Inst. London: Vol. ii, p. 408.

A word more, and we have done. We have asserted that our author did not seek, out of America, for the origin of the American races. Such would seem to be his opinion, when he asks the question (chap. x) "Who were the mound-builders?" and also in discussing "manners and customs as the basis of ethnic relations:" but in chapter xi, we find Dr. Foster asserting that he doubts not "that there will be found continuous and uninterrupted causes which shall explain all the diversities in the different branches of the human family, without the necessity of resorting to independent creations." To this we cannot subscribe, and think we see in it a contradiction to the whole tenor of the preceding chapters.

The antiquity of the redman in America can scarcely be measured; it is probable that he "witnessed the declining existence of the mastodon and megalonyx, in the later ages of the glacial period\*" — that of the mound-builder can scarcely be greater, and efforts to trace his origin "to a common fountain of life, as with other races now inhabiting the earth, soon involve the investigator in the mazes of conjecture."

We learn from the preface of the volume before us, that Dr. Foster hoped at a later day "to draw more liberally from the materials at his command." It will ever be a source of regret that his untimely death has forever ended his valuable labors in American archæology. Valuable and interesting as is the work we have briefly reviewed, we doubt not but that a more comprehensive monograph from the same gifted source would have overcome many of the difficulties that now beset the path of American archæologists.—C. C. A.

CLASSIFICATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BEETLES.†—Since his recent return from a stay of several years in Europe, Dr. LeConte has applied himself to the study of our beetles, and with what success may be seen in the amount of work contained in the two pamphlets we notice in this number of the *NATURALIST*.

Though this second part is much smaller than the first, and treats of but two families, the Spondylidæ and Cerambycidæ, yet the work is done in the same thorough, comprehensive way that

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\* Dr. Jos. Leidy, in *Indigenous Races of the Earth*, p. xviii.

† Classification of the Coleoptera of North America. Prepared for the Smithsonian Institution by John L. LeConte, M. D. Part ii. Washington, May-June, 1873. 8vo. pp. 69.